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union and peace among themselves have lasted up to the present time, but without any permanent success. In 1823, they formed the Central American Confederation, which lasted till 1839, when Honduras and Nicaragua withdrew followed by Costa Rica in 1840, and Guatemala in 1847. In 1872, a Central American Union was formed by Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and San Salvador, for the purpose of securing peace among the States and to each a republican form of government. This union provided for a Congress to make the necessary laws for securing the ends aimed at. Republican government has been maintained, but the peace for which they have been striving has been broken by various misunderstandings and quarrels between the States, until at last the country is reduced to a very deplorable condition.

Last year a treaty of peace and friendship was drafted by the Central American Diet which met in the capital of San Salvador. This treaty was signed by the plenipotentiaries of Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador and Nicaragua, the representative from Costa Rica protesting. This treaty has just been rejected by the Congress and Executive of Guatemala by a nearly unanimous vote, for reasons which are not known. Great excitement is said to prevail in San Salvador where it is thought that Guatemala intends to invade and attempt to annex Honduras and perhaps Salvador. Secret messengers have been sent to the other States asking for co-operation or neutrality in case of such an attempt by Guatemala. The Congress of San Salvador has been called to meet in extra session to discuss the situation.

In view of possible hostilities at an early day business is nearly completely paralyzed in Salvador. Only the necessities of life are bought and sold. Flour has gone up to sixteen dollars a barrel in gold, and imports are greatly diminished.

The trouble in these States of Central America, as in some of the South American republics, is a very radical one. There is no doubt that the desire for liberty and for peace and union is, on the part of many from all the republics, genuine. Monarchical government would not be tolerated. But liberty becomes almost another name for lawlessness when it is made the excuse for all sorts of selfish ambition and schemes for political power and abuse of political position. This is the situation in Central America, so far as we can read it. The country is cursed with adventurers. Some of these get into power and others are jealous of them and plot their overthrow. The people are not strong enough in enlightenment and particularly in moral sentiment to rid themselves of these schemers. Indeed, many of them have the same spirit and are ready to follow any ambitious leader who makes plenty of promises. The efforts made for free government, for peace and union are praiseworthy, but they will bear no permanent fruit until they are directed by righteousness and by a self-sacrificing desire for the good of others. The root

of jealousy and of strife, a selfish and evil spirit, remaining, distraction and discord will continually be coming to the surface. Peace is the fruit of righteousness, self-control, love of one's neighbor and respect for his rights. This the Central Americans will some day learn, after having seen their countries rent with civil strife, their business prostrated and the schemes of selfish adventurers one after another come to naught.

SINKING OF THE VICTORIA.

While the British war fleet in the Mediterranean was manœuvring off Tripoli on the 23d ult., the Victoria was run into by the Camperdown and sank almost immediately, carrying down nearly 400 officers and men. This is one of the greatest disasters with which the British navy has recently met.

The Victoria was one of the largest and best constructed of the ships of the navy. She was built in 1887 at a cost of three and a half millions of dollars. She was a 12,000 horse power vessel with a displacement of 10,470 tons. She was protected with armor 18 inches thick. She carried 44 guns, one of which was a 29-ton gun and two 111-ton guns. She had a powerful ram and eight torpedo tubes.

When the Camperdown struck her, nearly at right angles, a great hole was torn in her steel-covered side, the water rushed in in torrents, and before the bulkheads could be closed she turned to one side, was almost instantly capsized by the enormous weight of her big guns, etc., and went to the bottom with more than half of all on board.

It is an appalling disaster and one that could scarcely have happened to any vessel except one of these new and supposedly nearly indestructible warships. It seems from this event that these ships are really death traps, instead of protecting fortresses. The heavy steel plating is no protection against the ponderous beaks of hostile vessels, a well aimed blow of which in an engagement would be more destructive than the firing of the big guns or the exploding of the torpedoes. The features of these ships which had been so much praised as protective in the highest degree are proved by this accident to be elements of very great danger. The immense quantities of metal put into them make the dividing line between safety and danger a very narrow one. It is almost certain that in an actual engagement more lives would be sacrificed through the perils of the ships themselves than from the fighting.

It is to be hoped that the English people and all others will open their eyes to the folly of proceeding any further along this line of warship building. These huge monsters of the deep are out of all harmony with our time. They represent a spirit that is dying out. The English are paying heavily for their unwisdom, for others of their

ships have previously gone to wreck in storms. The British navy has lost seventy vessels in fifty years. England's boast that she has the biggest and best equipped navy in the world is not at all to her credit. It is a striking proof that the barbarism of the past which beat down its foes with bludgeons and clumsy swords still exists in her borders, encircling it-elf in steel plate and arming itself with hundred-ton guns.

This event is leading many of the military men to say that no more such ships should be built, that smaller vessels are better. From their standpoint this is probably true. But it would be much better still to build none at all. If England would break up her navy, strip off all the steel plate from her warships, dismount her big guns and recast them into anchors, plows and shovels, she would be much safer in every way than she is to-day. Every nation would respect her and would hasten to follow her example. This, instead of being unreasonable and utopian, is simply what is demanded of her by the civilization of the time, in which she has such a leading share. It is also what she will one day do. She ought to commence it at once, and not sacrifice another 400 of her citizens to an inexcusable folly.

The heart of England has been universally moved to grief at the swift death that came to these men. Is it possible that this same heart could in this Christian day be moved to wild rejoicing if an enemy's ship should be hurled by one of her own steel-clad beaks to the bottom of the ocean, carrying down 400 Russians or Frenchmen with it?

BE FAIR TOWARDS THE FAIR.

It has been opened on Sundays. Of this we are heartily sorry. We had hoped that the legal aspects of the case were such that the Court of Appeals would sustain the injunction closing the grounds on the Lord's day. But it seems they were not. So the Exposition is likely to be open every Sunday till November. We think that the course which the Local Directory, supported by the National Commissioners, have taken is a great blunder, morally and financially. We put morally first because that aspect of the case is above all others. In our judgment, it is a great mistake financially also. The Sunday attendance has been not over half as large as the advocates of Sunday opening had expected. It will almost certainly grow less rather than greater, as soon as the Sunday visitors in the neighborhood of Chicago have made their visit. There is no doubt whatever that the management will lose much more than they will gain by the opening. This loss will probably amount to several millions. The number who will stay away on account of what they justly consider an aggravated case of violation of the Sabbath is certainly large. These are

mostly persons who would have remained several days at the Fair and added largely to its income.

With the feelings and convictions of these we have great sympathy, though we do not personally see the justness of their reasoning when they claim that every Christian, to be consistent, should stay away from the Fair entirely. The same reasoning consistently carried out would make it impossible for any Christian ever to use a railway train in this country.

But what we started to say was that we hoped all these Christians will do their Christian duty in a Christian way. Indiscriminate evil-speaking of the Fair is wrong. Many of the Exhibits are closed. Those of the Government and of many of the States and many private ones, for example. The Sabbath is observed by a large section of those who are in the Exposition.

Furthermore, not everybody connected with the buildings and grounds nor with Chicago is a scoundrel and a "fleece." The statements which we see in some religious journals that you can not live in Chicago, or see the Exposition without paying exorbitant sums of money is simply untrue. We have just returned from the place ourselves, and venture to say that any man may visit the Fair every day in the week and see all that heart could wish and not pay a cent beyond his gate fee. A good lunch can be had on the grounds for half a dollar or less, and a good drink of water for one cent and under. A man may empty his pocket book very easily, but he need not do it if he have a reasonable amount of good sense.

Let us be fair towards the Fair, and remember that false statement even when made for a good purpose is always unworthy of a Christian.

"ANGLO-AMERICAN REUNION."

Andrew Carnegie has a remarkable article in the June number of the *North American Review* entitled "A Look Ahead." It is to be the closing chapter of the revised edition of his "Triumphant Democracy." But for its connection with the rest of the book it might better have been entitled "Anglo-American Reunion," for that is the real subject of the paper.

Mr. Carnegie ventures in this article to predict the ultimate reunion of all English-speaking peoples in some sort of a political federation like that now existing between the different States of our Union. He not only prophesies that this is certain to take place but pleads for it on six important grounds. First, there is the race kinship and resemblance in language, literature, religion and law, with the resulting tendency to draw together. Secondly, he argues that "oceans no longer constitute barriers between nations." America and England are now very near to each other. In the third place, "the telegraph connecting London, . . . New York, etc., bringing all into instant-